

Silver Jackets Meeting February 11, 2020

Georgia Tech Police Headquarters, Beringause Community Room

Minutes

Members Attending (28): John Balsam (GTRI), Ed Rondeau (Real Estate), Ron Bohlander (GTRI), Bohlander (guest), Ian Gatland (Physics), Mary Duncan (Development), Nannette Dooley (Library), Pat Davis (College of Sciences), Jo McIver (Registrar), Sandra Thornton (Public Policy), Walter Allen (Purchasing), Annette Satterfield (Registrar), Steve Dickerson (ME), Wayne Book (ME), Judy Book (guest), Jane Chisholm (PE), Cindy Havri (guest), Kathy Tomajko (Library), Ron Tomajko (Guest), Stephanie Shields (Library), Helen Mitchell (SPP), Leigh Bottomley (Provost), Larry Bottomley (CHEM), Al Connelly (ECE), Don Runnion (Library), Maggi Harrison (GTRI), Susan Keenan (Lang. Inst), Charles Parsons (MGT), Sheila Parsons (Guest).

Ed welcomed the group, and had everyone introduce themselves with their department.

Wayne Book introduced the speaker Pete Ludovice. Pete received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology after completing a B.S. in the same field from the University of Illinois. After post-doctoral research at IBM, NASA, and the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule – Zürich, he managed the Polymer Products Group at Molecular Simulations Inc. (now Accelrys). He remains a part-time faculty member of the Georgia Tech School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering where he received the Don Bratcher Human Relations Award for his interaction with students across the Georgia Tech Campus. Pete's research interests include the application of molecular simulation to synthetic and biological polymers, and the use of humor to improve technical innovation, education and communication. He works with the Georgia Tech School of Math on the application of humorous improvisation to catalyze technical innovation. Before joining the Center for Academic Enrichment Pete spent several years involved in their programs, teaching GT1000 and directing a ThinkBig living-learning program.

Dr. Pete Ludovice, the world's only engineering professor by day and stand-up comedian by night, illustrated the value of humor in education, communication, innovation and therapeutic applications based on his recent research at Georgia Tech on applied humor. While seemingly out of place in engineering, this recent work has garnered him the 2019 Innovation in Education Award from the Educational Division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. We commonly claim that learning should be fun, but Pete illustrated how humor can help accomplish this while simultaneously proving that engineers can be funny, and not just funny-looking.